[Translation]

Smuggling of Cattle

5877. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased ot state:

(a) whether there has been a steep decline in the number of livestock in South Bihar due to smuggling of cattle to Bangladesh through West Bengal;

(b) if so, the number of cattle smugglers arrested and the action taken against them;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute a task force to check the smuggling of cattle;

(d) if so, the time by which the task force is likely to be constituted; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) While it is not possible to say whether there has been a decline in the number of livestock in South Bihar, the numbers of cattle heads seized by the Border Security Force on the Indo-Bangladesh border during the last three years show a declining trend in the smuggling of cattle.

The number of smugglers including cattle smugglers apprehended by the Border Security Force during last three years is as follows:-

1995	-	5705
1996	-	4933
1997 (upto 7 May)	-	2526

The smugglers apprehended by the security forces on the border are handed over to the customs authorities and the State Police for appropriate action.

(c) to (e) The Govenment of Bihar is reportedly considering a proposal to constitue a task force to check the smuggling of cattle. The Central Government on its part has taken a series of measures to check the illegal activities on the border. These include: strengthening of the Border Security Froce to reduce the gaps between border outposts; intensified patrolling; erection of observation post towers along international border and supply of night vision devices, binoculars etc. for better observation and patrolling in both land and riverine areas of border.

[English]

Subsidy to Farmers

5878. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra Government has urged the Union Government to restore the procedure of direct subsidy to the farmers; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to subsidy/concession on fertilizers. No such request has been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

(b) Does not arise.

Sugar Production

5879. SHRI GULAM MOHD. MIR MAGANI :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:
SHRI SURENDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of sugar during 1996-97 season has come down;

(b) if so, the requirement and the estimated production of sugar during the season along with the reasons for this fall;

(c) the total sugar exported during 1996-97;

(d) the extent to which the export of sugar is likely to be reduced due to decline in the sugar production; and

(e) the steps being taken to meet the domestic demand of sugar for 1997?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) and (b) The production of sugar during the current 1996-97 sugar season (October, 1996 - September, 1997) upto 31.3.1997 was 106.05 lakh tonnes as against 117.27 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date of the last season. This fall is primarily because of late start of crushing during the current season & on account of prolonged crushing during last season. During the current 1996-97 season both, production and internal requirement are expected to be of the order of about 140 lakh tonnes.

(c) As per available information, a quantity of about 4.08 lakh tonnes (provisional) has been exported upto 30th April, 1997 during the current 1996-97 sugar season.